

to finish this bill as quickly as we can and move on to either telecommunications, or maybe because of the urgency, the antiterrorism bill will be ready by next week. I think we can move very quickly on that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

THE DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR JOHN STENNIS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, we in the Senate were shocked to hear the news of the passing of a cherished friend and a former colleague: former Senator John Stennis from Mississippi.

Senator Stennis served in this Senate Chamber for 40 years—from the time of his election to the Senate in 1947, through his retirement in 1989. During that time, he dedicated himself to giving our Nation the gift of wisdom and leadership.

Senator Stennis was greatly admired by all who had the honor to serve with him. As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he served with several Presidents; during that time he led the committee through the darkest days of the Vietnam war. Although he often saw his position on that war opposed by some of his fellow Democrats, he always did what he believed to be correct and in the best interest of our Nation.

For many years, Senator Stennis and I were neighbors in the Russell Building. I recall with great fondness the kindness and good cheer he showed to me and my office staff on the many occasions he stopped in to say hello. Senator Stennis completed his Senate career by serving with great distinction as President pro tempore of the Senate.

I had the honor of serving with Senator John Stennis for almost my entire Senate career. Throughout the years, I came to appreciate and respect his qualities of integrity, ability, and dedication.

Mr. President, John C. Stennis was a great American. He was a dedicated Senator who proudly represented the people of Mississippi with great distinction. We have lost a colleague, we have lost a leader; but most of all, we have lost a friend.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, last week, when most of us were home visiting our constituents, our two colleagues from Oklahoma faced a terrible disaster in their State. A 4,000-pound bomb detonated outside the Murrah Federal Office Building in Oklahoma City, not only destroying that structure and killing dozens of innocent men, women, and children, but taking a tremendous toll on the psyche of all Americans as well.

For years the United States has largely been spared the indignity of terrorist acts within its borders, but all that seems to have changed re-

cently. In the last 2 years, we have suffered two deadly bombing attacks in the United States, one in New York City and last week's in Oklahoma City. While the images of injured and shocked people stumbling through the streets of Manhattan were disturbing, there was perhaps no sight as unsettling as seeking the near lifeless body of a young baby that was caught in last week's blast being passed from a police officer to a firefighter. Tragically, the child died and with it died a piece of our innocence. For the bomb that destroyed that building was not built by the hands of cold-hearted, calculating, and well financed foreign terrorists. Quite the contrary, the man who authorities believe is responsible for the bombing is a young American.

How, we all wonder, could an American do this to his fellow citizens? While we despise those responsible for bombing the World Trade Center, the attack in Oklahoma City, America's Heartland, seems so much more disturbing. When we think of terrorist actions against the United States, we think only those outside our borders would wish to do us harm. It is inconceivable to us that a fellow countryman would possess a hatred so deep and inflamed that he would be motivated to act against our Nation. How could one American commit an act that equates with premeditated, mass murder against other Americans? There is no answer and perhaps that is what is so disturbing to us.

The events of the last several days have happened at a breakneck pace and it is sometimes hard to maintain a focus and perspective on just what has occurred. We must remember, that as of this morning, 78 people, many of them Government servants, too many of them children, lost their lives for no logical or explicable reason. That thanks to tireless efforts of hundreds of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, suspects in this crime were quickly identified and are being rapidly brought to justice.

We discovered that there is a whole subculture of people who are fearful of their lawfully elected representatives. Some of these people believe that the Government is involved in the conspiracy to go to war against the citizens of the United States, and that they must protect themselves from their own Government.

While we truly do live in a world that is filled with dangerous people, it is also a world where the good outnumber the bad. Volunteers and relief supplies continue to pour into Oklahoma City, and people throughout the United States have banded together in shows of faith and sympathy for those who died or lost loved ones.

Most of all, we were reminded that America is still a very unique place, and it is a shame we must literally fear one of our neighbors might wish to destroy what is so special to all.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONDEMNATION OF THE BOMBING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk, and I ask unanimous consent that it be considered at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 110) expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the bombing in Oklahoma City.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, this resolution is one that I referred to earlier in my comments, cosponsored by Senator INHOFE and myself, Senator DOLE, and many other Senators.

We are going to hotline this and ask Senators if they wish to cosponsor it. I very much appreciate the cooperation of the majority leader in allowing us to bring up this resolution. The majority leader has already mentioned his intentions that we vote on the resolution at 12 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATION'S RESPONSE TO THE OKLAHOMA BOMBING

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's kindness in this matter. I just have a few words to say here this morning following the Oklahoma bombing.

Today, we all continue to mourn the senseless loss of life in Oklahoma City. My heart and my prayers go out to the families and loved ones of those killed and injured in this tragic bombing. This vicious destruction of human life, particularly of the lives of so many innocent children, is tragic beyond belief.

We must not rest until all of the perpetrators are discovered and punished. I have full confidence in the ability of Federal law enforcement officials to bring the perpetrators to justice. The